Midnight Commander

Two-panel file manager

START HERE

Tab
Switch active panel

F3 / F4
View / edit file

Insert
Tag / untag file

Alt + ?
Find file

F5 / F6
Copy / move to other panel

Ctrl + O
Show the shell

F7 / F8
Make dir / delete

F10
Quit

CONCEPTS

Active panel (source)	Other panel (target)

Two panels: source and target

Copy and move go from the active panel to the other one; the dialog lets you change the target.

No function keys (terminal or desktop grabs them)? Press Esc, then 1-9 or 0 for F1-F10.

Enter runs the command line if you typed something; on an empty line it opens the file or directory.

Alt is Meta; if your terminal has none, press Esc first, then the key.

In the viewer: F2 toggles wrap, F4 hex mode, F5 goto line, F8 raw view. F10 leaves viewer and editor.

The keys + - * only act on selection while the command line is empty.

FUNCTION KEYS

F1 Help

F2 User menu

F3 View file

F4 Edit file

F5 Copy

F6 Move / rename

F7 Make directory

F8 Delete

F9 Open menu bar

F10 Quit

Shift + F10
Quit, keep shell in start dir

Shift + F3
View raw, unfiltered

Shift + F4
Edit, new file by name

Shift + F5
Copy to a chosen path

Shift + F6
Move to a chosen path

PANELS

Tab / Ctrl + I
Switch active panel

Up / Down Move one entry

Home / End First / last entry

PageUp / PageDown
Page up / down

Alt + G / Alt + R / Alt + J
Top / middle / bottom of screen

Alt + O
Show selected dir in other panel

Alt + I
Other panel to this directory

Alt + Y / Alt + U
Directory history back / forward

Alt + Shift + H
Show directory history

Alt + T Cycle listing format

Alt + C Quick cd dialog

Ctrl + X › I
Other panel shows info

Ctrl + X › Q
Other panel shows quick view

Ctrl + L Repaint screen

Alt + E Change panel charset

SELECT

Insert / Ctrl + T
Tag or untag file

Plus Select by pattern

\ Unselect by pattern

* Invert selection

Ctrl + S / Alt + S
Quick search in listing

Press again for the next match; press twice to reuse the last pattern.

COMMAND LINE

Enter Run line, or open entry

Alt + Enter
Paste file name to line

Ctrl + Shift + Enter
Paste full path to line

Ctrl + X › T / Ctrl + X › Ctrl + T
Paste tagged names (this / other)

Ctrl + X › P / Ctrl + X › Ctrl + P
Paste panel path (this / other)

Alt + Tab Complete name

COMMAND LINE (cont.)

Alt + P / Alt + N
Previous / next command

Alt + H
Show command history

Ctrl + Q Quote next key

Ctrl + A / Ctrl + E
Start / end of line

Ctrl + K Kill to end of line

Ctrl + Y Yank killed text

FILES

Ctrl + X › C
Change permissions

Ctrl + X › O Change owner

Ctrl + X › E
Change attributes

Ctrl + X › L Hard link

Ctrl + X › S Absolute symlink

Ctrl + X › V Relative symlink

Alt + ! Filtered view

FIND AND SHELL

Alt + ?
Find file by name or content

Ctrl + X › !
Panelize command output

Run e.g. find . -type l and browse the result as a panel.

Ctrl + O
Hide MC, show subshell

Press Ctrl+O again to return to MC.

Ctrl + \ Show directory hotlist

Ctrl + X › H
Add current dir to hotlist

VIEWER (F3)

F10 / Esc Close viewer

Space / PageDown
Page down

Backspace / PageUp
Page up

g / G Top / bottom

u / d Half page up / down

/ / F7 Search forward

? Search backward

n / N
Next match / reverse direction

Alt + R Toggle ruler

VIEWER (F3) (cont.)

Ctrl + F / Ctrl + B
Next / previous file

m / r
Set / jump to mark (prefix a digit)

EDITOR (F4)

Shift + Arrows Highlight text

Ctrl + Insert Copy block

Shift + Insert Paste block

Shift + Delete Cut block

Ctrl + Delete Delete block

Ctrl + R
Start / stop macro recording

REMOTE AND OPTIONS

Remote paths (type via Alt+C)

Path	Meaning
`sftp://user@host/dir`	SFTP, port 22 default
`sh://user@host/dir`	Shell link over ssh
`ftp://host/dir`	FTP, anonymous by default

mc › -P › *<file>*
Write last dir on exit

mc › -e › *<file>*
Open straight in editor

mc › -v › *<file>*
Open straight in viewer

mc › -u
Start without subshell

mc › *<dir1>* › *<dir2>*
Start with both panels

RECIPES

Copy between two dirs

```
mc /src /dst
# Insert on files (or + for a pattern)
# F5, confirm target, Enter
```

Edit a file on a server

```
# Alt+C, type: sftp://user@host/etc
# select file, F4, edit, F2 to save
```

Find and act on results

```
# Alt+? , enter name or content
# Panelize, then F5 / F8 on the listing
# Alt+C to leave the result panel
```

Jump to a shell and back

```
# Ctrl+O   run commands in subshell
# Ctrl+O   return to Commander
```